

Dr. Masakazu Aono

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Masakazu Aono obtained his doctoral degree from the University of Tokyo in 1972, and was subsequently a research staff member of the National Institute for Research in Inorganic Materials (NIRIM) until 1986, during which time he spent two years (1978-1980) as a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, USA. He moved to the Institute for Physical and Chemical Research (RIKEN) as a chief scientist in 1982 and organized the Surface and Interface Laboratory until 2002. From 1996 to 2005, he was concurrently a professor of Atomic Precision Technology at Osaka University. In 2002, he moved to the National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS) as the director-general of the Nanomaterials Laboratory. In 2007, he assumed the director-general of the International Center for Materials Nanoarchitectonics (MANA) organized in NIMS by the sponsorship of the World Premier International Research Center (WPI) Initiative of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT).

His main research interests lie in nanoscale science and technology: He has been the director of several large research projects, such as the “Atomcraft” project in the ERATO (JST) Program (1989-1994), the “Novel Functionality of Artificial Nanostructures” project in the CREST (JST) Program (1995-2001), the “Atomic Switch” project in the SORST (JST) Program (2001-2003), the “Nanoscale Quantum Conductor Array” project in the ICORP (JST) Program (2003-2007), and the “Atomic Switch for Next-Generation Logic Operation” project in the MEXT’s Key Technology Program (2005-2009).

He has been awarded various prizes including the Minister of Science and Technology Agency Award (1983), the Kumagi Prize for vacuum science (1983), the Nikkei Award for Advanced Technology (1992), the Japan Surface Science Society Prize (2004), and the Minister of Education, Culture, Science and Technology Award (2007). He is also a Fellow of the American Vacuum Society (USA), the Institute of Physics (UK), the Japan Society of Applied Physics, and the National Institute for Materials Science (Japan).